

VOLUNTEER FIRE ASSISTANCE

Authorization: 16 U.S.C. §2101 (also known as Federal Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act, as amended by the Forest Stewardship Act of 1990)

Budget: (from federal VFA/Title 2)

2003-2004 Fiscal Year = \$107,235

2004-2005 Fiscal Year = \$100,000 (estimate)

Objective: To organize, train, and provide equipment to fire departments.

Eligibility: County fire organizations.

Level of Assistance: 50% matching grant for eligible project costs; limit \$10,000 maximum; \$1,500 minimum.

Priorities: County fire organizations in the cooperative (COOP) fire areas of the state that have never had a VFA grant and request a project with county wide impact.; county fire organizations in the intensive and extensive fire areas of the state that requests have a county wide impact..

Eligible Types of Projects:

- ◆ Personal Protective Equipment: Personal safety equipment—wildland fire , must meet NIOSH (National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health), NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) or OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) standards.
- ◆ Organization: New fire department start-up efforts (first three years only).
- ◆ Communication Equipment: Radios/Pagers (must be compatible with the state governmental radio plan and narrowband capable); mobile multi-channel radios (must include county fire and FIRECOM, WISTAC and MARC frequencies).
- ◆ Prevention Projects: Posters, handouts, , numbering systems, urban interface videos and brochures.
- ◆ Dry Hydrants: Dry stand pipes used to draft water from natural water sources.
- ◆ Equipment: Portable pumps, hoses, Class A foam/foam equipment, and wildland tools, equipment.
- ◆ Training: Videos; instructional materials; wildland and incident command system certified training and tuition for attending classes .

Applications: Mailed to all county fire associations in Wisconsin in mid-April of each year; also available upon request and from the DNR website. Submittal deadline is July 1 of each year.

History: This program was created by the federal government in 1978 to organize, train, and equip local fire forces for fire preparedness and mobilization.

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